

Library

Nantwich Rural District

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer
of Health**

FOR THE YEAR

1954

To which is appended the Report
of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

Nantwich Rural District

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer
of Health**

FOR THE YEAR

1954

To which is appended the Report
of the Chief Sanitary Inspector



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29898699>

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council :—

Lady and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Nantwich Rural District for the year 1954, in which is included the Report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The sanitary conditions of the Rural District are comparatively good with respect to housing, water supply and scavenging. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal however continue to present a serious problem and it is imperative that no obstacles be put in the way of the Council's comprehensive proposals to remedy this matter.

In the field of sanitary administration, the Council has, during the year under review, increased the number of its Sanitary Inspectors from three to five. This was necessitated when sixteen slaughterhouses were re-opened on the decontrol of meat in July, and has enabled the Council to provide a one hundred per cent meat inspection in their District. These appointments however occurred too late in the year to have any serious bearing on other branches of the work.

Demolition or slum clearance in a scattered Rural District such as this present their own peculiar problems and the true assessment of the rehousing need can only be arrived at as the result of the long and tedious survey which is at present in progress.

From the statistical survey it will be noted that there has been an estimated increase in the resident population of 460, the present figure being given as 27,990.

The Birth Rate which has been falling steadily for the past few years showed another slight decrease in 1954 and this was accompanied by a correspondingly slight increase in the death rate.

The number of deaths in children under one year of age was nine compared with 13 in 1953, and of these five occurred in the first four weeks of life.

While no deaths were recorded as the result of the common infections of childhood it is somewhat distressing to note that nine persons lost their lives as the result of road accidents and of these, three were children under five years of age. In this respect I should like to pay tribute to the work done throughout the year by the Road Safety Committee and the untiring efforts of the Road Safety

Officer in their endeavour to reduce these figures which, on a national scale, are truly alarming.

An excellent report has again been given by your Chief Sanitary Inspector which I commend to all members for detailed study. In doing so, I take this opportunity of thanking him for his help in the preparation of this report and the other members of my staff for the willing and loyal co-operation which I at all times receive.

In directing your attention to this report, I desire to thank my colleagues in other Departments for their help and the members of the Council's Committee for their interest, consideration and helpful guidance.

I have the honour to be your obedient Servant,

R. KENNETH HAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Stapeley House,
Stapeley.

28th July, 1955.

Nantwich Rural District Council

HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

The Whole Council.

Chairman :—Councillor H. Cookson.

Vice-Chairman :—Councillor H. Large.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NANTWICH DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor F. E. Charlesworth.

Councillor E. S. Dutton.

Councillor S. L. Dutton.

Councillor C. W. Jones.

Councillor H. Large.

Councillor F. A. Moore.

Councillor W. Richardson.

Councillor W. Tucker.

Councillor J. H. Williams.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer : Dr. R. Kenneth Hay, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector : John S. Townley, M.S.I.A.,

M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector : John Craven, M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A., Cert. I. of Housing

1st Additional Sanitary Inspector : Gerald S. Wright, M.S.I.A.
(8.6.54)

2nd Additional Sanitary Inspector : Malcolm B. Elliott,
A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (13.7.54)

Shorthand Typist/General Clerk : Miss Gillian Hockenhull

Clerk : Philip Cornes.

John P. Moulton—2nd Additional Sanitary Inspector Resigned
31.3.54.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	100,823
Population	...	...	...	...	...	27,990
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	8,513
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	£135,709
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated 1955/56)	...	...	...	...	...	£529

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The district is situated in the South East of Cheshire. It adjoins the County of Salop in the south and the County of Stafford in the east, and forms part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire. It surrounds the Borough of Crewe and Urban District of Nantwich. Whilst the area is predominantly agricultural, a large proportion of the population is to be found in those parishes contiguous to

Crewe and Nantwich, in which towns they find their employment. The main source of employment in the Rural District is agriculture and industries allied with it. These take the form of Milk and Milk product factories, corn mills and agricultural engineering : the latter having increased locally with the mechanisation of farming. There is one clothing factory, which in the main employs female labour. There is virtually no unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				Total	Male	Female
Live Births	...	...	...	375	187	188
Legitimate		...	...	360	181	179
Illegitimate		...	...	15	6	9

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.39.

Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.32.

The figure for England and Wales being 15.2.

				Total	Male	Female
Still Births	...	...	...	11	5	6

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ... 13.79

Deaths	301	149	152
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 10.75.

Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 10.21.

The figure for England and Wales being 11.3.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	24.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			25.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			NIL

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	49	19	30
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	NIL	NIL	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	NIL	NIL	NIL

Deaths :—The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age (males and females) was 9 and of these 5 were under four weeks of age.

The following figures supplied by the Road Safety Officer, Mr. F. C. Slade, are included in detail to emphasise the fact that the number of deaths on the roads in this District was in 1954 three times greater than occurred for all forms of Tuberculosis.

Total number of Accidents	...	...	...	211
Total number Killed (under 5 years)	...	...	...	3
Total number Killed (Aged 5 to 15 years)	...	...	...	NIL
Total number injured (under 5 years)	...	...	...	16
Total number Seriously injured (under 5 years)...	...	...	...	3
Total number injured (Aged 5 to 15 years)	...	...	...	11
Total number Seriously injured (Aged 5 to 15 years)	...	...	...	NIL
Total number of persons Killed (Aged over 15)	...	...	...	6
Total number injured (Aged over 15 years)	...	...	...	103
Total number Seriously injured (Aged over 15)...	...	...	...	31

From these figures it will be noted that the total number of persons killed was nine.

The total number injured 119 including 34 seriously.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The following weather conditions for the year have been kindly supplied by the Principal of the Cheshire School of Agriculture, Reaseheath, Nantwich :—

Climatic Data 1954

1954 Month	Rainfall	Air Temperatures in °F.	
		Maximum	Minimum
January	1.495"	57	19
February	2.555"	52	15
March	2.49"	60	20.5
April	.415"	61	27
May	2.155"	75	33
June	3.96"	73	44
July	3.225"	73	41
August	3.224"	76	44
September	2.582"	80	36.5
October	4.755"	69	30
November	4.095"	58	26
December	3.055"	58.5	30.5
Total rainfall 1954 : 34.006"			

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	0	2
Tuberculosis, other	1	0	1
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0

	Male	Female	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7	4	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	7	7
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	13	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	0	1
Diabetes ...	0	3	3
Vascular lesions of Nervous system ...	18	34	52
Coronary disease, angina ...	30	13	43
Hypertension with Heart disease ...	1	1	2
Other heart disease ...	36	36	72
Other circulatory disease ...	4	5	9
Influenza ...	0	2	2
Pneumonia ...	6	3	9
Bronchitis ...	3	6	9
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	0	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ...	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital malformations ...	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	13	24
Motor vehicle accidents ...	5	1	6
All other accidents ...	1	3	4
Suicide ...	1	0	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0	0
(All causes) Total ...	149	152	301

There was no cause of unusual or excessive mortality.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Year of Immunisation and Vaccination	IMMUNISATION		VACCINATION	
	Primary Immunisation	Re-Immunisation	Primary	Re-Vaccination
1950 ...	204	127	245	30
1951 ...	335	69	215	96
1952 ...	282	94	178	25
1953 ...	173	442	253	34
1954 ...	203	470	161	35

The arrangements, administered by the Divisional Health Committee for the immunisation and re-immunisation of children continues to work well, but as pointed out in my previous report, the total number of notifications received from general practitioners for children under school age, is far below the actual number of immunisations performed. This fact is borne out during School Medical Inspections and School Immunisation Sessions when it is found, especially in the more urban districts, that a relatively small percentage of children require primary immunisation following entry into school.

During the year 15 Schools were visited for the purpose of re-immunisation. There are now facilities for the primary immunisation of any child who has not received immunity against Diphtheria prior to entering school, provided the consent of the parent is obtained. The number of children who received primary immunisation at school during the year was 79.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

This scheme, also administered by the Divisional Health Committee, commenced in December, 1954, so that during the year under review only a limited amount of work has been done.

The following table, which will be continued in subsequent years, gives a statistical analysis for the year ending 1954.

Year	No. of Parents Notified	Parents Consent Given	No. of Children Tuberculin Positive	No. of Children Receiving B.C.G.	Percentage Conversion Rate
1954 ...	112	100	38	57	100

An approach has been made to the No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit regarding the possibility of their offering X-ray facilities to those children who were shown to be tuberculin positive. If this can be achieved and introduced as a general policy in conjunction with B.C.G. Vaccination it will mark a further great advance in Preventive Medicine.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER INSECT PESTS.

No Council Houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year. Treatment for the destruction of bugs was carried out at four private houses.

Disinfestation of five private houses infested with fleas was carried out.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, is meeting all needs for bacteriological investigations but does not undertake the chemical analysis of water.

For local convenience, samples of ice cream and milk and medical specimens are examined at the Chester City Hospital Laboratory, and use is also made of the laboratories at Manchester and Birkenhead.

Messrs. Melling and Ardern, the County Analysts, Manchester, are employed for the chemical analysis of water.

AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE.

This service continues to be administered by the Divisional Health Committee. An all-round increase in the work of the Ambulance Service during the year was recorded, and it will be noted that this increase must be associated with an increase of 48.7% over the preceding year's Out-Patient attendances at hospitals serving the Division. The Service undertook 2,502 journeys to convey 8,437 patients to and from Out-Patients Departments Hospitals etc., 104,664 miles were covered. Comparing these figures with those for 1953 shows an increase of 9.54% journeys, 35.5% patients and 22.5% mileage, and most certainly justifies the decision of the members of that Committee to recommend an increase in the establishment of Ambulance Personnel, which was subsequently approved.

NURSING SERVICES.

Most valuable work continues to be carried out by the 15 Nurse/Midwives serving the District. Apart from a few minor alterations in the districts no major changes took place during the year.

For information purposes a detailed list of Nurses and Health Visitors with the parishes they cover, is shown in Appendix I.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Ophthalmic Clinic at the Barker Street Welfare Centre is available to all school children, and children under five.

The Ante-Natal Clinic staffed by County Midwives is held at the above centre.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic is held at the Crewe Memorial Hospital.

The Paediatric Clinic is held at the Stalbridge Road, Crewe, and Ludford Street School Clinics.

The Orthopaedic Clinic is run in conjunction with the Orthopaedic out-patients Department of the Oswestry Hospital, and is held at the British Railways Rooms, Nantwich Road, Crewe.

A clinic for dental treatment for mothers, school children and children under five years, is held at the Barker Street Welfare Centre.

HOSPITALS.

General hospitals at Crewe, Nantwich, and Hartshill in Staffordshire, serve the Rural District, with the old Isolation Hospital at Worleston being available for convalescent cases.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases in the Rural Area are accepted at the Crewe Isolation Hospital, which has met all needs during the year.

The Maternity Hospital at The Cliffe, Wybunbury, together with the Maternity Hospital at Linden Grange, Crewe, and the Maternity wards at the Barony Hospital, are available to the Rural District.

Hospitalisation of tuberculous patients is at Hefferston Grange within the County of Cheshire, and the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium in the County of Salop. In addition, there is within the Rural District at Wrenbury a rehabilitation centre for tuberculous patients, who are trained in light industrial occupations.

MORTUARY FACILITIES.

The arrangements made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary at the Barony Hospital, Nantwich, have worked satisfactorily and continued to meet the needs of the Rural District.

DISINFECTION.

Terminal disinfection is carried out at homes of patients suffering from infectious diseases, as and when required. Arrangements for the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing, etc., are made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, the work being carried out at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Responsibility for this work was transferred to the Cheshire River Board as from the 1st October, 1951.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which deals with this matter is attached hereto.

SHOPS ACTS.

The District Council is responsible for enforcement of provisions relating to the health and comfort of shop workers with respect to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, and the requirements in this connection are being adequately complied with.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The close liaison between the Council, the Divisional Health Committee, the Local Health Authority, and the County Welfare Department made it possible to administer Section 47 without legal proceedings. In many cases, the provision of a Home Help made it possible for aged persons to continue residence in their own homes, in their own familiar environments.

The Council had to undertake funeral arrangements in two cases under Section 50 of this Act.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It is hoped that the Council will soon be in a position to eliminate a large proportion of the pail closets in the closely built up parts of the Rural Area, there being at the present time somewhere in the region of 3,000 in the district receiving the weekly cleansing service. Apart from the health aspect, a considerable saving will be made by the adoption of closet conversion schemes as soon as adequate sewers and sewage works are provided, and this will go a long way towards offsetting the cost of these much needed facilities.

CAMPING SITES

There is only one approved camping site in the district which is situated in the parish of Church Minshull, and is licenced for 20 vans. It is well managed and no nuisances or other problems have arisen.

The siting of individual vans has however, met with some opposition, but so long as the law permits this type of dwelling, control under the Town and Country Planning Acts, seems to be the most effective means of limiting their use.

The Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. G. T. Jury) provides the following information with respect to Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and Housing :—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year the Council submitted their proposals for new works at Haslington and an extension of the present works at Wistaston to the Ministry and a public enquiry was held.

The resulting decision was that the proposals be held in abeyance pending the submission of a main drainage scheme by the Borough of Crewe.

Negotiations have, therefore, continued as to terms upon which sewage from the rural areas could be treated in any new Crewe scheme and the resulting public enquiry into the Crewe proposals is anticipated in the new year.

A scheme for the relaying of the main sewer through Willaston and Wistaston has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry and a decision is now awaited.

Preliminary work is being undertaken for proposed sewerage schemes to the township of Audlem and the Dig Lane area of Wybunbury, Hough and Shavington.

The scheme for the drainage of Larch Avenue, Basford, has at last received Ministry sanction and the work should be completed early next year. A small scheme to deal with the pollution caused by the Council houses at Bickerton has been completed.

The policy of providing public conveniences in the urban parts of the area has been given much consideration and schemes intended for Haslington, Wistaston and Shavington have been dropped. Schemes still under consideration are at Willaston and Audlem.

HOUSING.

During the year 131 houses have been completed, of which 31 were erected by private enterprise.

Council Houses were completed in the following parishes :—

Brindley	...	...	8
Buerton	...	...	4
Baddington	...	...	6
Shavington	...	...	4
Wistaston	...	...	48
Wrenbury	...	...	22
Audlem	...	...	2
Willaston	...	...	2
Acton	...	...	2
Dodcott	...	...	2
			100
Stoke Manor Conversion	1	(Flat)	
Private Enterprise	...		31
			132

At the end of 1954 work was proceeding on contracts for the erection of :—

Wistaston	...	...	4	Shops and 4 Flats
Wistaston	...	...	58	Houses and Bungalows
Wrenbury	...	...	4	Houses

With regard to the temporary accommodation given by the converted hutments in the area, the Ministry has indicated that in view of the recommendations of the Working Party it is considered that arrangements should be made to end the requisitioning of the Calveley Site No. 7 and that all the camp dwellers should be rehoused.

The Council has indicated that every effort will be made to clear the site within the next two years and similar action is contemplated by the Council with respect to the hutment sites in their ownership at Wardle and Walgherton.

With this in view the housing programme for 1955 will allow for the development of the site at Wardle with permanent houses.

Throughout the year the Crewe Corporation continued their development within the Wistaston parish and by the end of the year 151 houses had been completed.

The necessity for licences to cover proposed building works gradually relaxed throughout the year until November when all licensing under the Control of Building Defence Regulations ceased.

With the advent of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act during the year the subject of Improvement Grants, under the 1949 Housing Act. was greatly stimulated and grants amounting to £11,233 were given towards modernizing some 59 properties.

Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, assistance was given in respect of 2 dwellings to be erected for the housing of agricultural workers.

SCHOOLS.

There were no schools closed during the year as a result of infectious diseases or epidemics.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This matter is dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which is attached hereto.

NUTRITION.

No action under this heading has been taken by this Council but the Welfare Centres at Audlem, Haslington, Shavington and Wistaston, under the supervision of the Divisional Health Committee, have continued to do valuable work in this respect.

SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 52 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 42 last year, and no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Twenty cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which 15 were Pulmonary ; these exclude Inward Transfers.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED (including Inward Transfers) AND MORTALITY DURING 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases and Transfers				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non Resp.		Resp.		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 —	6	6	—	2	—	—	1	—
35 —	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
45 —	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	14	1	4	2	—	1	—

Total Cases : 33

Deaths : 3

Number of cases remaining on the tuberculosis register at the end of the year :

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
76	14	63	27

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following is a tabular statement of cases notified during the year.

Disease	Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	52	37	—
Pneumonia	21	—	9
Whooping Cough ...	46	—	—
Measles	149	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—

Cases of infectious disease showing incidence of cases in various age periods among civilians :—

	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	TOTALS
Under 1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	5
1 —	—	2	1	1	11	—	—	—	—	15
2 —	—	2	—	11	15	1	—	—	—	29
3 —	—	6	1	8	26	—	—	—	—	41
4 —	—	7	—	4	28	—	—	—	—	39
5 —	—	32	4	19	65	—	1	1	—	122
10 —	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	5
15 —	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20 —	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
35 —	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
45 —	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
65 +	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	2	52	21	46	149	2	1	4	1	278

APPENDIX I.

NURSES AND HEALTH VISITORS SERVING THE NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Nurses	Parishes
Mrs. C. CARROLL, The Grove, Acton. Tel. No. Nantwich 5571.	Acton, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Brindley, Burland, Edleston, Faddiley, Henhull, Hurleston, Stoke, Wardle.
Mrs. E. C. HURST, Conniston, Bunbury Heath, Tarporley. Tel. No. Bunbury 367.	Alraham, Bunbury, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow.
Mrs. R. E. FORT, Laundry Cottage, Rookery Park, Worleston, Nantwich. Tel. No. Nantwich 5941.	Aston-Juxta-Mondrum, Cholmondeston, Leighton, Church Minshull, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Wettenhall, Woolstanwood, Worleston.
Miss M. H. HUNTER, The Gables, Audlem. Tel. No. Audlem 422.	Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Newhall (part), Coole Pilate.
Mrs. E. WEATHERALL, 27, Cresswellshaw Road, Alsager. Tel. No. Alsager 67.	Barthomley.
Miss L. E. DENISON, Sundawn, Park Estate, Shavington. Tel. No. Willaston 7234.	Basford, Chorlton, Hough, Rope, Shavington - cum - Gresty, Weston, Wybunbury (small part).
Miss A. JONES, Mill Grove, Bulkeley. Tel. No. Broxton 31.	Bickerton, Bulkeley, Egerton.
Miss M. A. EDWARDS, 2, Back Lane, Walgherton. Tel. No. Wybunbury 345.	Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Doddington, Hather-ton, Hunsterson, Lea, Walgherton, Wybunbury (part).
Miss W. A. GEORGE, Council Houses, Newhall Lane, Aston, Newall. Tel. No. Aston 286.	Broomhall, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Marbury-cum-Quoisley (part), Newhall (part), Norbury (part), Sound, Woodcott, Wrenbury-cum-Frith.
Miss M. BROCKLEHURST, Bickley Moss, Whitchurch. Tel. No. Cholmondeley 268.	Cholmondeley, Chorley, Marbury-cum-Quoisley (part), Norbury (part).
Mrs. J. BANKS, 33, Cartwright Road, Haslington. Tel. No. Crewe 2693.	Crewe Green, Haslington.

Miss E. REILLY,
41, London Road,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 5570.

Batherton, Stapeley, Willaston (small part).

Miss E. M. DEANE,
5, Elworth Street,
Sandbach.
Tel. No. Sandbach 256.

Warmingham.

Miss O. M. HEATH,
Hawthorn Cottage,
Church Road, Malpas.
Tel. No. Malpas 96.

Wirswall.

Miss S. G. BLACK,
31, Coppice Road,
Willaston.
Tel. No. Willaston 7109.

Wistaston, Willaston (part).

Health Visitors

Mrs. F. G. KIRKHAM,
St. Bees,
Marsh Lane,
Nantwich.
(no phone).

Acton, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Batherton, Brindley, Broomhall, Bulkeley, Bunbury, Burland, Cholmondeley, Chorley, Coole Pilate, Edleston, Faddiley, Haughton, Hurleston, Marbury-cum-Quoisley, Norbury, Peckforton, Ridley, Sound, Spurstow, Stapeley, Stoke, Wirswall, Woodcott, Wrenbury-cum-Frith.

Miss E. M. SCOTT,
The Dowery,
Welfare Centre,
Barker Street,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 5360.

Alpraham, Aston - Juxta - Mondrum, Calvey, Cholmondeston, Henhull, Leighton, Church Minshull, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Wardle, Warmingham, Wettenhall, Woolstanwood, Worleston.

Miss D. GRIFFITHS,
The Gables,
Heathfield Road,
Audlem.
(no phone).

Audlem, Basford, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Buerton, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Chorlton, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Doddington, Hankelow, Hatherton, Hough, Hunsterson, Lea, Newhall, Rope, Shavington - cum - Gresty, Walgherton, Weston, Wybunbury.

Mrs. A. CLAYTON,
7, Crewe Street,
Crewe.

Barthomley, Crewe Green, Haslington.

Mrs. J. BITTEN,
Bellevue Farm,
Malpas.
(no phone).

Bickerton, Egerton.

Miss R. WALCH,
28, Park Road,
Willaston.
(no phone).

Willaston, Wisaston.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Stapeley House,
Nantwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council :—

Lady and Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954, is set out in the following pages, and is the twentieth I have had the honour to submit for the Council's consideration.

The outstanding feature of activity during the year resulted from the Decontrol of food and Marketing of Agricultural Produce at the beginning of July, with the result that by the end of the year 16 slaughterhouses were operating in this rural district. Much time was spent in preparatory work prior to decontrol, and the department has had to struggle hard since then to maintain one hundred per cent meat inspection of animals slaughtered in the area. This, I am proud to report was achieved.

The additional work involved by meat inspection called for a complete re-organisation of the work of the Public Health Department, and the need for additional staff was quickly appreciated. The establishment was increased from three to five Sanitary Inspectors, and whilst we were successful in filling one vacancy and in engaging a fourth we were not able to engage the fifth in view of the national shortage of Sanitary Inspectors.

By the end of the year it was evident that with only four Inspectors available, it would only be possible to handle urgent day to day work along with ever increasing meat inspection duties, which were by this time demanding considerable overtime work, including the operation of a rota for weekends, to cover Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

The general survey work done under the Acts of Parliament affecting public health had to be left in abeyance, and very little was accomplished to meet the requirements of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, by way of making a survey of the area to facilitate the submission of proposals to the Minister by the 30th July, 1955 for dealing with unfit houses.

The shortage of staff will be further aggravated by the taking

of annual leave during the summer months, and it is hoped that the fifth Sanitary Inspector will be appointed in time to obviate further disruption.

The year under review was fraught with anxiety and frustration, and I am grateful to all members of the staff of the Public Health Department both inside the office and out, for their loyal support, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors who worked long hours freely, and at considerable personal inconvenience to ensure that no breakdown in the work should arise.

The personal interest, and understanding shown at all times by our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. K. Hay, has been a source of encouragement and inspiration.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	1,365
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...			156
Housing Acts, 1936/49	...	...	...	278
Food and Drugs Act, 1938				
(including Meat Inspection)	...	...		1,740
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	52
National Assistance Act, 1948	...	...		29
Shops Acts	...	...	...	32

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The usual enquiries and investigations were made into cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health, there being 96 visits for this purpose.

Disinfection was carried out when necessary, and careful attention was given to the exclusion of school contacts and the control of food handlers.

Three specimens were submitted to the laboratory in connection with the investigation of infectious disease.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified and appropriate action taken:—

Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...		2
Scarlet Fever	...	...		52
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21
Whooping Cough	...	...		46
Measles	...	...	...	149
Dysentery	...	...	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	...		1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...			1

NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Preliminary Notices Served	68
Preliminary Notices complied with	48
Statutory Notices Served	24
Statutory Notices complied with	15

No legal proceedings were necessary in connection with the above.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

There were 25 Preliminary Notices served under this Act, and no Statutory Notices served.

FOOD POISONING.

There was one case of food poisoning notified during the year, the source of origin not being traced.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The vehicle and labour establishments have remained constant for the past five years, being nine Karrier Bantam Refuse Collectors and 43 men respectively. The refuse collectors are convertible for nightsoil collection and disposal. Having been regularly serviced and maintained in our own workshops all the vehicles are in excellent condition and should have many years service in them yet.

When it is realised that approximately over £9,000 of the total approximate cost of £23,000 per annum is spent on nightsoil collection and disposal, the urgent need for introduction of a closet conversion scheme as soon as possible is very apparent.

The saving on nightsoil collection and disposal by abolition of pail closets wherever possible will go a long way towards meeting the costs of providing the sewers and sewage works now contemplated, apart from the general improvement of sanitation throughout the centres of population in the district.

The disposal of household refuse has continued satisfactorily, land reclamation being the main outlet.

The disposal of nightsoil by composting still remains the only available means of rendering this organic matter innocuous, and dispersing the resulting material. So far as the finished product is concerned a credit balance of approximately £170 over and above the cost of baling and haulage is now being made.

The fact that we rely on the goodwill of landowners for disposal facilities for household refuse, makes it imperative that waste paper must not be allowed to get out of control on the tips, and it is cheaper to deal with this as salvage to avoid the additional cost that would be necessary for tip control. We do in fact, show a profit in the region of £180 per annum on the cost of labour and materials involved.

Overtime is having to be worked to meet the needs of new houses in the area, and to make up time lost at Bank Holidays, etc., but the stage where it would be more economical to bring in additional transport and labour has not yet arisen.

The type of vehicle we use at present is meeting all requirements in view of the nature of the work involved and means available for disposal, and until we can reduce the nightsoil problem we will not be able to adopt any of the more modern types of vehicles.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council's arrangements for the administration of this Act continued to operate smoothly. Annual agreements were made with the managements of 17 industrial premises. There were 13 treatments of Schools made at the request of the County Council who were charged on a cost plus basis. Sewers, sewage works, and refuse tips were kept under constant supervision and treated as required.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Statutory notices were served in 2 cases, under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following is a copy of Form 572 forwarded by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to Factories:—

Part I of the Act.

Premises	No. on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	9	2	—	—
2.—Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	91	23	—	—
3.—Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	27	27	—	—
Total ...	127	52	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”.)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—

Outwork—Sections 110 and 111—NIL.

HOUSING.

Action during the early part of the year was confined to dealing with a number of unfit houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Steps were also taken for the implementation of outstanding Demolition Orders, by advising occupiers to apply for Council Houses and requesting owners of vacant premises to demolish the houses concerned. Whilst a number of occupiers have applied for Council Houses there are still those who prefer to reside in unfit houses at lower rents who will have to be submitted to more stringent action in due course. A number of owners have demolished their premises and others are arranging to do so. There have been several cases where the dwellings have been made totally uninhabitable and put into use for agricultural purposes and the Council has agreed to allow this to continue where they are not eyesores or obstructive buildings.

In August a re-survey of all houses placed in the "demolition" and "re-construction" categories during the Rural Housing Survey of 1949 was commenced in order that more accurate proposals can be submitted to the Minister under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

This re-survey involves 648 houses, and progress during the year under review was very slow owing to staff shortage and other commitments. All urgent cases found during this re-survey have been reported to the Council and appropriate action taken.

The Council has continued to permit aged persons to remain in occupation of houses subject to Demolition Orders where the structures are sound and the premises in reasonable repair.

In one instance a Demolition Order was made in default of an undertaking to carry out works of improvement.

Two applications were received under Section 6 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 for the temporary occupation of houses subject to Demolition Orders and were still under consideration at the end of the year.

There were only three applications for certificates of disrepair and these were granted in each case.

The following tabular statement required by Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, summarises the action taken :—

- (1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation—53.

- (2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—45.
- (3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :—
 - (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works—NIL.
 - (b) the making of demolition or closing orders—8.
- (4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works—NIL.
- (5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—NIL.
- (6) The number of demolition or closing orders made—10.
- (7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936—2.
- (8) The number of houses demolished—8.

CANAL BOATS.

The canals in the district are not being used to any great extent by industrial traffic, pleasure boats having now gained ascendancy. No canal boats were inspected during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Only one such trade exists in the district, and is carried on without nuisance.

SHOPS ACTS.

Inspections at shops indicate that the requirements with respect to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences continue to be very well complied with.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Since the formation of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, special attention has been given to those premises in the area not connected to the mains, and which have doubtful sources of supply.

The first survey, involving 109 cases was carried out in 1949—50, when informal action in obviously suspicious and unsatisfactory cases was taken.

A second survey supplemented by sampling was made in 1952 when it was found that 31 had been connected to the mains, six of the houses involved had become derelict, three had been demolished, two were vacant, and seven had no supplies to sample. There were two cases where the owners were taking precautions and refused sampling facilities. These figures accounted for 51 leaving 58 cases of which 27 were found to be unsatisfactory by bacteriological examination.

During 1954 these 27 unsatisfactory cases were re-surveyed when it was found that six had been connected to the mains. Samples were taken in the remaining 21 cases and all were again found to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination.

The occupiers in each case were again advised to boil all water before use, and informal action has continued with the owners.

Prior to the Water Board taking over, the Parish of Wirswall had no mains supply, but has now had one provided. Preliminary enquires indicate that the majority of the premises in the parish are being connected. A survey will be made in 1955 and a special report will be submitted to the Council on the actual position in this Parish.

The only other parish in the area without a comprehensive mains supply is Peckforton which is partly served by the Liverpool Corporation Aqueduct which crosses the parish, partly by a private supply serving Peckforton Castle, and the rest by private wells, etc. The Castle supply was sampled during the year and found to be suspicious. As the source is in the Tarvin Rural District, the matter was taken up with that Authority. The whole position in Peckforton is very complex and a survey is to be undertaken to enable a special report to be prepared for the consideration of the Council.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

The decontrol of meat supplies created a serious problem for the Council, both prior to the first week in July, 1954 when it took place, and afterwards.

A slaughterhouse Committee was formed to deal with the matter, and meetings took place with adjacent local authorities, butchers residing in this district, along with sub-committees which made inspections at a number of the premises concerned.

The absence of suitable premises to meet the combined needs of Crewe, Nantwich, and our own district under local authority control, made it imperative that a number of private slaughterhouses would have to be opened, bearing in mind also the needs of the agricultural industry. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, there were 35 private slaughterhouses registered or licensed in the Nantwich Rural Area. This figure was reduced to 32 in 1940. By 1954 there were 21 premises under consideration for renewal, and the large majority of these were well below present day standards and had generally deteriorated whilst out of use during the war years.

In consequence of both formal and informal action the number was further reduced and finally 16 premises were licensed with a further case still in abeyance. In December, 1954 a resolution was passed under Section 4 Sub-Section 2 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954 for the restriction of private slaughterhouses in the Rural District, and this was forwarded to the Minister of Food for approval in accordance with Sub-Section 3 of the Section 4 referred to.

Slaughtermen's licences are in force in 39 cases.

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the six months ending the 31st December, 1954, 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption was maintained.

The total number of animals was 18,307 made up as follows:—
2,149 cattle ; 7,529 sheep ; 6,234 pigs ; 2,393 calves, and 2 goats.

The number of visits to slaughterhouses and farms involved in the above was 1,222. To meet trade requirements the majority of these had to be made in the early morning, in the evenings, and at weekends.

It will be appreciated that situated as we are in the centre of an agricultural area, animal casualties have frequently to be dealt with. These considerably affect the amount of meat condemned, and widen the range of causes for condemnation. The estimated total weight of meat condemned was 43 tons, 1 cwt, 3 qrs, 25 lbs.

Tuberculosis is still the main reason for condemnation, as will be seen from the following table.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle incl. Cows)	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Goats	Total
Number killed	2,149	6,234	7,529	2,393	2	18,307
Number inspected...	2,149	6,234	7,529	2,393	2	18,307

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

Whole Carcasses condemned	29	30	2	14	—	75
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	484	286	403	4	—	1,177
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	23.9%	5.1%	5.4%	0.8%	—	6.8%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Whole Carcasses condemned	44	9	—	—	—	53
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	412	178	—	—	—	590
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	21.2%	3.0%	—	—	—	5.97%

Cysticercus Bovis was found in 15 carcasses and of these 12 were detained in Cold Storage for the prescribed period before being released for human consumption, and the remaining three condemned.

OTHER FOODS.

Food storage and preparation rooms have been inspected from time to time and are being maintained at a high standard of cleanliness.

The byelaws with respect to the handling and wrapping of food, etc., made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are being well complied with and are no doubt serving a useful purpose.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year :—

Canned Foods.

Meat	...	...	...	...	35 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Cream	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Total					43 lbs.

There are 51 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and five for its manufacture for the purpose of sale ; one of the latter using the pasteurisation process.

Regular inspections of these premises has been maintained and 63 samples were taken with the following results :—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	40
Grade II	...	...	...	...	20
Grade III	...	...	...	...	3

The greater part of the milk consumed in the area is pasteurised.

The following licences to use special designations were issued by the Council :—

Pasteurised (Dealers')	...	...	20
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	...	...	9
Sterilised (Dealers')	...	...	10
Sterilised (Supplementary)	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers')	...	...	26
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	...	...	10
Accredited (Dealers')	...	...	1
Accredited (Supplementary)	...	...	1

In connection with the above 14 samples were taken with the following results :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	Passed	3
Tuberculin Tested (Past)		...	...		8
Pasteurised	...	...	...		3
Total				...	14

Following frequent inspection of churns at milk factories, many rusty churns have now been replaced by new churns, and no complaints are being received from farmers.

I, am

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

28th July, 1955.
